

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2002 (BOS Mtg. 2/4/03)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Dry Well Replacement Program

As the Board is aware, the recent drought conditions adversely impacted the local water supply. As a result, residences throughout the state experienced dry wells. In response to the increasing number of dry wells, Governor Warner made \$2.5 million dollars in assistance available through the Dry Well Replacement Program (DWRP) in November of 2002. This program provides funding to assist low-income individuals whose wells have gone dry due to the drought. The State's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers the program.

Eligible households must:

- ? be owner-occupied
- ? have a source of water that has been dry or unstable for a sustained period of time;
- ? have income below the HUD Section 8 Low and Moderate Income criteria of 80% of the area median income, adjusted by family size.

Assistance is limited to \$5,000 per household. Funds can be used for permitting, drilling, and installation of new wells or for public water lines and residential connections to public systems. The DWRP requires households to connect to public water systems if available for costs under the \$5,000 limit.

DWRP assistance is provided as "ability to pay" loans. These loans carry zero percent (0%) interest over ten years and are amortized monthly. Liens are recorded on the properties for the duration of the loan. Locally, the program is designed to give priority to those individuals with zero ability to pay. Households that meet this threshold would not make payments; rather the amount of the loan would be forgiven over the ten-year period.

Additionally, the Community Services Staff will coordinate with the Department of Environmental Services to compliment another dry well program available to our citizens. Citizens with deeper wells, primarily in the northern County, that draw from the same aquifer as the County and other localities' well systems, would more likely qualify for the Regional Well Mitigation Program. This program recognizes that large drawers of water such as the various regional utilities and individual commercial enterprises impact citizens who had their well permitted earlier. This plan allows citizens whose well runs dry to submit a mitigation claim administered by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). HRPDC applies specific geological criteria to the claimant's location to determine each municipality contribution to mitigate the individual's claim.

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Staff has identified several County residents who appear to both have a need and be eligible for this assistance. If the Board authorizes participation, the Division of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization of Community Services would administer the program. I recommend adoption of proposed Resolution R03-16.

Smith/4111

Attachments:

- ? January 23, 2003 Correspondence
- ? Proposed Resolution R03-16